



NEWS RELEASE

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Vet-Owned Businesses, Groups Represented on SBA's Advisory Committee on Veterans Business

WASHINGTON – Veterans who own small businesses will make up the majority of a 15-member Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs established to provide an independent source of advice and policy recommendations to the U.S. Small Business Administration, Congress, the President and other policy-makers.

The names of 12 of the 15 members, who were appointed earlier this month, were announced today by SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto.

The committee is composed of eight veterans who are owners of small businesses, and seven representatives of veterans' organizations. The names of the members announced thus far are: James E. Altmeyer of Wheeling, W.V.; Bob J. Archuleta of Los Angeles, Calif.; James G. Blair of San Diego, Calif.; L. Jerry Caton of Dublin, Calif.; Dennis DeMolet of Dayton, Ohio; David W. Haughey of Salt Lake City, Utah; Samuel Metters of McLean, Va.; Ron Miller of Dawsonville, Ga.; John M. O'Brien of Coronado, Calif.; Elvin Clarence Toppin of Edenton, N.C.; Shane Edward Walsh of Pearland, Texas, and Joe Wyant of Gainesville, Ga. The three remaining members will be appointed shortly.

“Along the years our veterans have played a major role in helping to keep our country secure, and veteran business owners contribute to keep our economy strong,” said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. “We at the SBA take very seriously our responsibility to assist them in growing successful businesses, and this committee will be instrumental in helping us to carry out that responsibility.”

The first meeting of the committee was held April 22, 2003, at the SBA headquarters in Washington, D.C. In addition to the members, the meeting was attended by SBA Deputy Administrator Melanie R. Sabelhaus, Veterans Business Development Associate Administrator William D. Elmore, and Gen. Charles Henry (Ret.), President and CEO of the National Veterans Business Development Corporation. At the event, Bob Archuleta and James Blair were appointed chairman and vice chairman of the committee, respectively.

The mission of the Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs, as set by Public Law 106-50, is to review, coordinate and monitor plans and programs that affect the ability of small businesses owned and controlled by veterans to obtain capital, credit and access to markets.

For additional information about the Office of Veterans Business Development, visit www.sba.gov/VETS/.